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SUMMARY

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SOME FEATURES OF INDUSTRIAL GEOGRAPHY IN NEW INHABITED LANDS

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SOME FEATURES OF INDUSTRIAL GEOGRAPHY IN NEW-INHABITED LANDS

by

A. Danilov

S U M M A R Y

The report deals with the prerequisites and experience of industrialization, as well as with the distinguishing features of industry distribution in sparsely populated areas of the USSR, taking as an example the development of the Soviet Socialist Republics of Central Asia and Kazakhstan.

The most important prerequisites of industrial development are the density of population in the area and the availability of industrial raw materials of natural or agricultural origin. But these prerequisites are not decisive ones. Nowadays a great number of small and even large countries, which have enormous and varied resources of raw materials, and a dense population, remain at an extremely low level of industrial development. On the other hand, many countries become industrially developed, though their population is small and natural raw materials are limited. Social and historical conditions, under which different countries develop, are of decisive importance for the industrial development of countries including sparsely populated countries.

A convincing illustration of this theoretical thesis is the experience of economic construction in the Soviet Socialist Republics of Central Asia and in Kazakhstan which are part of the USSR.

Before the Great October Socialist revolution cotton single-crop agriculture prevailed in the republics of Central Asia, and nomadic cattle-breeding in the Kazakh SSR. During the years of Soviet rule the economy of the republics was reorganized. After the victory and consolidation of Socialism, the Kazakh, Kirghiz, Uzbek, Tajik and Turkmen Union Republics, working in cooperation and with the fraternal help of other peoples of the USSR became highly industrialized areas with diverse industry and agriculture.

Much attention is paid in the report to the demonstration and analysis of the distinguishing features industry distribution and to preparatory methods of scientific research.

Two characteristic features of industry distribution in sparsely populated areas are shown.

Firstly, rather considerable concentration of industry in relatively large centres. Corresponding concentration of urban population testifies to the fact. In these places about one half of the total urban population lives in towns with a population of 50-500,000, whereas in the USSR as a whole only a little more then 1/3 of the urban population lives in towns of such a type. In similar areas of the old Donets basin an average of 22,000 people reside in urban settlements, in Kuzbass 37,000 people and in the Karaganda basin 32,000 people.

Secondly, industry is centred in nidi, groups of enterprises, which can be clearly seen from the cartogram of "New Urban Settlements of Kazakhstan and Central Asia" attached to the report.

A certain concentration of industry in relatively big centres and the nidular nature of its distribution in sparsely populated areas have a number of important economic and social advantages.

The report shows the practical measures that promoted the accelerated tempo of industrialization of Kazakhstan and the Central-Asian republics, their great achievements in the raising of cultural and technical standards of the population, in the development of mineral resources discovered during the years of Soviet rule in their territory.

An important rôle in the sound distribution of industry, especially in sparsely populated areas, has been played by methods of scientific research. A new method employed in our country consists in integrated economic and geographic research called "regional planning" of the area, which is carried on extensively by the agencies of the State Institute for City Planning and other scientific and designing establishments. A very broad circle of specialists participates in this research. Regional planning provides initial material for the State planning bodies to determine the direction of further economic development of individual areas as well as assigning the design of new construction projects to specialized designing establishments. The distribution of industry in sparsely populated areas is carried on according to a thoroughly elaborated scientific plan.

The report is accompanied by a map of "New Industrial Settlements of Kazakhstan and Central Asia".

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